

ARG - C112 ✓

3 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Development Branch

SUBJECT : Evaluation of Proposal for an Environmental Test Facility at FCIC

1. The capability of the environmental test facility as proposed by FCIC in the attached proposal not only exceeds the facilities at our contractors but also any such facility in existence in the United States.
2. Installation of such a facility would not only increase the probability of success on the ARGON program but would also greatly increase the probability of success for each launch during the 1960 CORONA program. Much additional operational information could be obtained by completely simulating flight and photographic operation of the complete payload section (black side) as well as environmental check of each component prior to assembly i.e., camera, cassette etc.
3. Although the complete facility proposal "B" will require considerable expenditure, [redacted] discussions with FCIC indicate that a savings could be realized on the ARGON program since FCIC is planning to procure and install the vibration table and altitude chamber with FCIC monies. This action alone since vibration tests could be conducted in the altitude chamber, will provide a better capability than that presently available at ITK or LAC. Also, since FCIC has indicated that testing at their facility would be at no additional cost to government it is felt that consideration be given to removing the testing requirement from ITK. Some of the monies saved [redacted] by this action could be used to install the complete testing facility as outlined in proposal "B" of the attached. This would be a cost to the ARGON program of about [redacted] but would be a net savings of about [redacted].
4. If it is desirable to proceed as outlined above, action must be taken without delay to make the facility ready to test the first ARGON cameras. Approximately six (6) months will be required to complete the facility.
5. Of interest it should be pointed out that a great saving could be accomplished on the CORONA 1960 program [redacted] by accomplishing testing of the eight (8) follow on cameras in the above

mentioned facility. It is realized that this must be given careful consideration before any decision can be reached since ITX is systems manager for the entire area.

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Attachments:
as noted

DB/DPD-DD/P:

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